

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 11, 13-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-27, and 29-36 are pending, with Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 15, 19, 23 and 28 canceled and Claims 20, 27, 29, 31, 32, 35 and 36 amended by the present Amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 5, 20 and 27 were objected to; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowara (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,713); Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowara in view of Muto (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,424) and Kojima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,886,999); Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowara, Muto and Kojima et al. in view of Aramaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,134); Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowara, Muto and Kojima in view of Beasley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,675); and Claims 9, 11, 13-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-27, and 29-36 were allowed.

All rejected claims are canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications and/or continuation applications addressing the now canceled claims.

Allowed Claims 20, 27, 29, 31, 32, 35 and 36 are amended to overcome the outstanding objections and to correct typographical errors. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request and early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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